

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 SAM-01 /080 W

----- 086644

R 230800Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8186

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0331

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, DM, AFSP

SUBJ: MEETING WITH GEN SOGLO ON CHANCERY AND TREATMENT OF  
AMB

REF (A) COTONOU 273, (B) COTONOU 260,

1. AFTER OVER A WEEK OF FUTILE ATTEMPTS, GEN CHRISTOPHE SOGLO (LANDLORD OF CHANCERY COMPLEX) FINALLY SAW FORNMIN ALLADAYE FEB 19 RE THE CHANCERY. THE MIN BLATANTLY LIED TO THE GENERAL, CLAIMING TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ANY EVICTION NOTICE AND THEN DENYING HAVING DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH THE AMB. HE TRIED TO PUT SOGLO OFF BY DISMISSING THE MATTER AS A POSSIBLE ERROR CAUSED BY CONFUSION BETWEEN CONFISCATED ZINSOU PROPERTY (THE RESIDENCE)U AND THE CHANCERY. MIN SAID HE WOULD CONDUCT ANY INVESTIGATION AND APPRISE SOGLO OF THE RESULTS.

2. COMMENT: PERHAPS WE ARE GRASPING AT STRAWS, BUT EMBASSY SEES IN ALLADAYE LIES THE MAKING OF A RETREAT. THE GPRB MAY USE EXCUSE OF ".MISTAKEN" OWNERSHIP AS A FACE SAVING WAY OUT OF A CONFRONTATION OVER THE CHANCERY (END COMMENT).

3. GEN SOGLO EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY HIS INDIGNATION OVER THE TREATMENT RECEIVED BY THE AMB AT THE HANDS OF THE GPRB.

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HE HAD A SURPRISING NUMBER OF DETAILS ABOUT THE "PEOPLES'

COURT." THE GEN REPORTS THE AMB'S TWO MYSTERIOUS INQUISITORS WERE POLITBUREAU MEMBERS GRATIEN CAPO-CHICHI, PREFECT OF THE OUEME PROVINCE, AND SIMON OGOUMA, PREFECT OF THE ATLANTIQUE PROVINCE, BOTH OF WHOM ARE RADICAL EXTREMISTS. AT THE TIME OF THE MOST RECENT CABINET SHUFFLE, CAPO-CHICHI HAD ATTEMPTED TO PRESSURE KEREKOU INTO GIVING HIM THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO. OGOUMA ALSO WANTED A MINISTERIAL POST. KEREKOU CATEGORICALLY REFUSED TO ALLOW CIVILIANS INTO THE CABINET. AS A SOP TO CAPO-CHICHI'S INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE INVITED HIM TO THE "INQUISITION". SOGLO SAID HE WAS THE ONE WHO WAS PARTICULARLY NASTY TO THE AMB. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT FORM-MINISTRY DIR FOR WESTERN EUROPE/NORTH AMERICAN CAKPO, APPALLED BY WHAT HAPPENED, HAS BEEN TALKING. SOGLO HEARD FIRST OF THE AMB'S MISTREATMENT FROM LUIZ ANGELO (SOGLO'S LAWYER AND ONE-TIME DAHOMEAN AMB TO NIGERIA), BUT SAYS THE STORY IS SPREADKING WIDELY. PEOPLE WHO HAVE WILLINGLY ACCEPTED THE PRESS ATTCKS ON THE US., THE GEN SAYS, ARE CONDEMING THEIR GOVT FOR THIS AFFAIR.

CHESHES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976COTONO00331  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760067-0109  
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**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 COTONOU 273, 76 COTONOU 260  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEETING WITH GEN SOGLO ON CHANCERY AND TREATMENT OF AMB  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AFSP, US, DM, (ALLEDAYE, MICHEL), (SOGLO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006